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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir, Government will look into the suggestion."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister stated that immediately on receipt of notice, the Agricultural Department staff went up. May I know when the pest attack was noticed, when the information reached the Departmental staff and when action was taken? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I have already stated that the pest was noticed on 24th May 1954 and there was no time lag. Immediately the staff of the Agricultural Department set about treating the lands."

Political pensions.

* 64 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state— 11-20 a.m.

(*a*) the number of recipients of political pensions paid out of State revenues;

(*b*) the smallest and the highest sum payable to them; and

(*c*) the total amount payable in a year under this head?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) 122.

" (*b*) Rs. 75-13-4 and Rs. 69,663-4-0, respectively, per annum.

" (*c*) Rs. 3,01,223-12-10."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Did this Government receive any communication from the Government of India enquiring about its attitude towards the future of political pensions and whether any, and if so, what reply was sent by this Government? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" No, Sir, to my knowledge."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" May I know whether any Member of this Legislature is drawing political pension? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I think the hon. Member is obsessed with the idea that this political pension is also like assignment of lands to political sufferers. Here no such thing arises."

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" May I know how long the Government propose to continue the payment of political pensions? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Till the political pensioner dies, he surely gets it. After his death, it is stopped." (Laughter.)

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, on a previous occasion the then Chief Minister, Sri C. Rajagopalachari, in whose Cabinet the present Hon. Minister for Land Revenue was also a Member,

said on the floor of this House that a communication had been received but he did not think it necessary in the public interest to disclose it. Now, how does the Hon. Minister say that no communication was received to his knowledge?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"There is a difference between political pensions paid out of the State funds and political pensions paid out of the Union funds. This question refers to only political pensions paid out of the State funds."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—"Is it a fact that these pensions were sanctioned by the British Government and if so, what is the reason for continuing them?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"The reason for its continuance is that the descendants of those who got pension are still continuing to live." (Laughter.)

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—"Are the pensions granted from the State funds on account of service rendered to the State or because they happened to be Jaghirdars or Nawabs?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"The Political pensions paid in this State relate only to four districts, viz., Tanjore, Madurai, Malabar and North Arcot. In the Tanjore district, descendants of Rajahs are getting them, and in other places other people are getting them."

DR. K. B. MENON :—"Will the Government abolish these pensions because they are abnormal or will they at least consider the questions of revising them?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"As far as I know, these political pensions are gradually dwindling in amount."

SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—"இந்த நாட்டைக் கிழக்கு இந்தியக் கம்பெனிக்குக் காட்டிக்கொடுத்ததற்காக கொடுக்கப்பட்டு வருகின்ற வெகுமானத்தை இன்னும் நீடித்துக்கொண்டிருக்க வேண்டுமா என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"Certain commitments have to be honoured."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—"These pensions were allowed by the Britishers because they had a purpose behind it, as they had to exercise influence through these big people. Now, in the changed context, do this Government still want the influence of these people and will they recommend the abolition of these pensions?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"Sir, in course of time, they will all be stopped. For instance, in the North Arcot district there is only one woman who is drawing only a few rupees."

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SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" May I know whether the commitment was made to the Britishers or to the pensioners? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The commitment of payment is only to the pensioners."

Number of criminal cases filed against agricultural labourers in Chidambaram.

* 65 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of criminal cases filed by the Government against agricultural workers in Chidambaram taluk of South Arcot district for agrarian offences in the year 1953; and

(*b*) the number of persons convicted?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Eight criminal cases against 198 agricultural labourers in Chidambaram taluk were registered during the year 1953. In three cases, charges against 111 persons were withdrawn and the remaining five cases against 87 persons were referred as non-cognizable. No person was convicted."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" விவசாயக் கூலி உயர்வு போராட்டமாக விவசாயிகள் கிளர்ச்சி செய்தார்கள் என்ற காரணத்திற்காக நீதி மன்றத்தில் தண்டனை விதித்த பிறகுங்கூட, விவசாயிகளை அநியாயமாக ஆடுமாடுகளை அடைப்பதுபோல் சிதம்பரம் சப் ஜெயிலில் அடைத்துவைத்திருந்தார்கள் என்பது உண்மையா ? சாதாரணமாக அந்த சப்-ஜெயிலில் எத்தனை பேர்களை வைக்கலாம் ? எத்தனை பேர்களை எத்தனை நாளைக்கு ஆடு மாடுகளைப்போல் அடைத்து வைத்திருந்தார்கள் என்பதை மந்திரியார் சொல்ல முடியுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The insinuation that the men were treated like cattle, I am afraid, is far-fetched and no such thing has happened. But this question relates to the number of cases filed against agricultural workers during the year 1953."

SRI C. KANDASAMY :—" அதே நேரத்தில் நிலச்சுவான்தாரர்கள் மீது எத்தனை வழக்குகள் போடப்பட்டன அந்த வழக்குகளில் எத்தனை நிலச்சுவான்தார்கள் தண்டிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதையாவது கூற முடியுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" A separate question may be put."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" சிதம்பரம் தாலூக்காவில் ' தன்னலம் ' என்ற ஒரு நாடகத்தை திரு. எம். ஆர். ராதா போன்ற குழுவினர், பெருநிலச்சுவான்தார்களைத் தாக்கும் அளவிலே நடத்திக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள் என்ற காரணத்திற்காக, இந்த கிரிமினல் கேஸ் மூலமாக அவர்களை தண்டித்து, மூன்று நாட்களுக்கு ஜெயிலில் போட்டார்கள் என்பது உண்மையா ?"